Slide 1 Intro

I stated collecting in the 1950's so that means a long time.
My dad got me started and we started with used US stamps - which is what he collected
These have some advantages besides not messing with gum.
Primarily, there is a good catalog so you know what spaces to fill and for how much
The disadvantage is that sooner or later, you can't afford to fill any of the spaces
A second disadvantage is it is difficult to get enough philatelic smarts to safely buy expensive stamps
Your collection stalls and you are at risk of losing interest

Slide 2 US Zeppelins

I have reached that plateau
Here are some nice items in my US - 1930 Graf Zeppelins
I got all three of these on EBAY within the last 20 years - They look good - I hope they are legitimate
They are my last expensive stamps - I have upgraded my interests to 25 cent stamps

Slide 3 Perfins

Formally known as damaged stamps - these are inexpensive and popular
They come from most countries - over 200
I save different countries with various levels of seriousness - trying to stay under a quarter

Slide 4 US Perfins

There are about 6600 US perfin designs
They are rated A through F in scarcity - most cost under a quarter
You can organize a collection many ways
    I disregard the front, use Hawid mounts on Scotts quadrille pages.
    Sorted alphabetically, with perfin catalog id's in pencil
This is a page of the B's

Slide 4 Denmark Perfins

There are about 1500 Denmark perfin designs
    but I collect more than one of each
The Denmark catalog rates them in Kroner [it is pre-Euro] some high, most common
These are also alphabetical on Hagner stock sheets for maximal re-organization

Slide 5 Great Britain Machin Head Perfins

Great Britain has the most different perfin designs although most were not used on Machins
All very low price
I also collect these on Hagner pages

Slide 6 Germania Head Perfins

Germany has the second highest number of perfin designs GB #1, US#3
My collection is pretty disorganized

Slide 7 Ceylon Perfins

Ceylon only has a few hundred different perfin designs
They are less expensive that you might think
As I said - whatever country's perfins I find - I file them someplace
Most collections are just a handful awaiting research

Slide 8 Precancels

A real disappointment in my life was that my dad passed away in 1982
before I started collecting precancels in 1985
There are even more nooks and crannies in precancel collecting that perfins
although fewer countries

Slide 9 Precancels - US Towns and Types

The most prevalent way to collect US precancels is Towns and Types
There are about 21 thousand different towns using precancels
of which over 18 thousand catalog for 25 cents or less
They are typically organized by state then town then type
This is a page of New Jersey types
The page is from a collection I bought in 1985 and upgraded over the years

Slide 10 Precancels - Overrun Countries

Denomination collecting is a fun option
This Elk Park North Carolina set is mounted in pages photocopied from a Scotts National

Slide 11 Precancels - Champions of Liberty

Another colorful set to collect
These Lanham Maryland are also mounted on Scotts National photocopies
Rated at 20 cents, I may never find the 8 cent Kossuth and Reuters

Slide 12 Precancels - Olympics

These are the three 1932 Los Angeles Olympics stamps with various California precancels
I do not expect to find many of the missing denominations - who knows if they even exist

Slide 13 Precancels - Synoptic

This means filling an album with precancels on every Scotts listed stamp
I am filling up an old Steiner pages album with these - slowly

Slide 14 Precancels - Alabama General

With precancels, general collecting means getting one of every denomination
Here is a page of Trinity Alabama PSS style 835.5
I have listed about 35 thousand different Alabama in my book
There are as many as 2 million for all the states

Slide 15 Precancels - 9 Cent Franklins

This is a slow moving collection - hard to acquire new items
The pages are come from the Precancel Stamp Society Classics Catalog album maker

Slide 16 Precancels - 13 Cent Apple Greens

Perhaps the most popular classic precancel topic - thousands known
This page is crowded because the PSS album does not include space for all the orientation varieties

Slide 17 Precancels - Philippine Controls

Not precancels, their purpose was not speeding mail handling, but rather advertizing the mailers
There are only about 8 different designs - they make a small, neat collection
I have no idea who published these pages, but I added boxes for used and unused stamps

Slide 18 Precancels - Canada

Probably my favorite precancels - about 3500 different known on all denominations
Mounted with Hawid's on quadrille pages
I had to add an extra box when the Unitrade catalog was expanded to include the Die-2 one cent

Slide 19 Other Collections

Some other collections to keep me busy - isn't retirement great

Slide 20 Haiti

Almost all low priced - not easy to figure out
Pages done by Larry R

Slide 21 Argentina Official Initials

ditto slide 20

Slide 22 Swiss Franchise

Provided by Swiss Post to charitable institutions in Switzerland
Numbers from 1 to about 1200 they come on the Franchise stamps Scotts S1 to S15
Another collection where is impossible to know what really exists

Slide 23 Dear Doctor

Colorful, topical postcards sent to doctors and nurses from worldwide locations
Thousands known - our Tom F is a recognized expert on these

Slide 24 Dear Doctor Fronts

Here are the 2 fronts - Ceylon and Australian Antarctic Territory - quite a contrast

Slide 25 Plate Numbers Classic

I start with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing issues number 1 (in 1894) up to 41125
One of each number

Slide 26 Plate Numbers Christmas

In 1968 plate numbers went topsy with the Christmas stamp Scotts 1363
There were 3 numbers on each pane - one stamp had combination Brown & Yellow numbers
The pairings of these were unpredictable - and collectable
When they came out, lists of numbers was made but there is little interest now

Slide 27 Flag Cancels

There are over 6000 different in the US - I have about 4000 - most are 25 cent items

Slide 28 Chicago Ovals

I collected these for years but when I showed them to Larry R, he made an offer I could not refuse
They go from number 1 to almost 1500
Chicago was a busy and complicated postal facility

Slide 29 Belgium Railways

Different designs exist [circle/hexagon/octagon] but I collect what are called Camfered rectangles
There is a list/album but no pricing - probably all under a quarter for common denominations

Slide 30 20th Century Dates

The ultimate common-stamp collection
A friend in NJ provided the pages for the decade 1920's
I have partially mounted 1920's and have shoeboxes of the rest of the years
A lifetime of low expense collecting

Slide 31 Dollars or Dimes your choice

Slide 32 A Totally Different Low-Cost Collection

Can you guess what it is?

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